

Council on Postsecondary Education
March 24, 2003

CEO Report

The Committee on Equal Opportunities will meet March 18. The council staff will report that the final status report has been forwarded to the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and that the report addressed several commitments in the agreement that have not been completed: the enhancement of Kentucky State University (including the renovation of three facilities); a commitment to improve the KSU teacher education program and the student success rate on the PRAXIS exam; and the University of Louisville's Pathway to Success Program.

The partnership with the OCR ended December 31, 2002. Because all of the commitments in the agreement have not been completed, Kentucky does not expect to be released from the partnership. The agreement between the Commonwealth and the OCR was entered into in May 1999 for the purpose of bringing Kentucky into compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The OCR will determine Kentucky's status by March 31, 2003.

Reports to the Committee

The CEO will discuss the final report of the KSU Comprehensive Assessment at its meeting March 18. Representatives of the assessment team will be present at the March 24 council meeting to discuss the final report. A copy of the report will be sent to council members prior to the meeting.

KSU will present information showing progress toward improvements in the teacher education program. The results of the most recent administration of the PRAXIS exam will not be available until late March or early April.

UofL will present information showing that the Pathways to Success Program does not have a disparaging impact on the enrollment of African American students at the University of Louisville. Information also will be presented showing improved access to the teacher education program for African Americans.

The committee will hear reports about program implementations, student support services, and campus environment from institutional equal opportunity representatives.

Dr. Lucien Yates, director of education, recruitment, and retention, Kentucky Department of Education, will discuss programs being implemented to increase the number of African Americans credentialed to become high school principals and superintendents in the Commonwealth.

Planned Activities

The Kentucky Association for Blacks in Higher Education Conference will be held in downtown Louisville at the Galt House Hotel April 16-18, 2003.

The Empowering the Black Community for the 21st Century Conference will be held at the Galt House Hotel in downtown Louisville, Wednesday, April 23, 2003. The theme of the conference is "Community Advocacy: Education - The Common Thread."

The third statewide conference for participants of the Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program will be held June 11-12, 2003, at Eastern Kentucky University. At least 200 students are expected to attend.

Transylvania University will host the 16th Annual Academically Proficient African American High School Junior and Senior Conference June 20-21, 2003. Approximately 300 students, parents, and college representatives from across the Commonwealth are expected to participate.

The Committee on Equal Opportunities is scheduled to meet Monday, April 21, 2003, in Meeting Room A at the council office. However, the committee may wish to change this date because of the March 18 meeting.